

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LONDON 16091 201757Z

44

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 201749Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5730

INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 16091

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XEDS-1

TAGS: ENRG, LY

SUBJECT: OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM DISPUTE WITH LARG

1. ORSER (OCCIDENTAL INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT) TELLS US "HOT OIL" ANNOUNCEMENT BY OCCIDENTAL OF LIBYA, INC. WHICH APPEARED IN OCTOBER 20 EDITION OF LEADING BRITISH AND AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY SIMILAR RELEASES IN OTHER FOREIGN COUNTRIES ONCE OFFICIAL TRANSLATIONS ARE MADE.

2. ORSER VOLUNTEERED THAT HE REALIZED THERE WERE REASONS FOR USG STAYING OUT OF COMMERCIAL SIDE OF DISPUTE WITH LARG. BUT HE ADDED HE WAS A LITTLE DISAPPOINTED IN OUR EMBASSY IN TRIPOLI -- PROBABLY ACTING UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM WASHINGTON -- "STICK-ING ITS HEAD IN THE SAND" ON PERSONNEL ISSUE. ORSER SAID THAT QUITE SOON OXY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO GET EMPLOYEES TO GO BACK INTO LIBYA IF SITUATION NOT RESOLVED. HE COMMENTED THAT OXY'S LOCAL MANAGER, BOB ESPEY, WAS DISGUSTED IN THIS REGARD. ORSER MENTIONED SPECIFICALLY ONE INSTANCE WHEN SOME OXY EMPLOYEES HAD COMPLAINED ORALLY TO EMBASSY AND THEN BEEN TOLD COMPLAINT WAS NOT OFFICIAL BECAUSE IT HAD NOT BEEN MADE IN WRITING.

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3. ORSER PREDICTED EMBASSY WOULD QEG T/HE MESSAQE
HOW OXY EMPLOYEES FEEL BECAUSE "THEER.WILLBE A DEM-
ONSTRATION ONI HANDS SOON." POINTING OUT THAT AS A
MATTER OF NORMAL PRACTICE 100 TO 150 OUT OF 400
EMPLOYEES ARE OUT OF COUNTRY, ORSER STATED THERE WERE
40 TO 50 PEOPLE STACKED UP WAITING TO GET OUT RIGHT NOW.

4. PETER KILORN OF NEW YORK TIMES, LONDON BUREAU,
INFORMS US HE IS TRYING TO OBTAIN VISITOR'S VISA
FOR LIBYA AFTER GETTING OCCIDENTAL'S SIDE OF STORY.

SPIERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PETROLEUM INDUSTRY, TRAVEL CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LONDON16091
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750363-0916
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751038/aaaabhm.x.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <02 OCT 2003 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM DISPUTE WITH LARG
TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, LY, OCCIDENTAL OIL CO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006